

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
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R 251549Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9948
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 5326

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, BE
SUBJECT: ACCORD ON PROGRAM OF GOVERNMENT

REF: BRUSSELS 5242

SUMMARY: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES OF THE PROSPECTIVE TINDEMANS
COALITION PARTIES ENDORSE THE FOUR-PARTY POLICY AGREEMENT
BUT FINAL APPROVAL RESTS WITH PARTY CONGRESSES THIS WEEKEND.
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THE TENTATIVE DATE FOR NAMING OF NEW GOVERNMENT IS JUNE 1.
THE NEWSPAPER DE STANDARD, WHICH HAS GOOD ACCESS TO
TINDEMANS, "SPECULATES" ON THE NEW CAST OF MINISTEES.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE POLICY PAPER OF THE PROSPECTIVE FOUR-PARTY
TINDEMANS COALITION (REFTEL) WAS APPROVED WITH VARYING

DEGREES OF ENTHUSIASM BY THE PARTY EXECUTIVES LATE
MAY 24. FINAL APPROVAL MUST BE GIVEN BY PARTY CONGRESSES
WHICH WILL CONVENE OVER THE COMING WEEKEND. THE FRANCOPHONE
SOCIAL CHRISTIAN (PSC), THE FLEMISH REGIONALIST
(VOLKSUNIE), AND THE BRUSSELS FRANCOPHONE (FDF) CONGRESSES
ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET MAY 27. THE FLEMISH SOCIAL CHRISTIANS
(CVP) WILL CONVENE MAY 28, THE SOCIALISTS (PSB/BSP) MAY 29.

2. ALTHOUGH THE PRESS REPORTS SOME GRUMBLING IN BOTH
LINGUISTIC CAMPS, OBSERVERS BELIEVE IT UNLIKELY THAT
THE PARTY RANK-AND-FILE WILL REPUDIATE THEIR LEADERSHIP.
ON THAT ASSUMPTION, ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT
(CVP/PSC; PSB/BSP; VU AND FDF) WILL TAKE PLACE JUNE 1,

WITH A FORMAL EXPOSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM TO
PARLIAMENT SCHEDULED FOR THE FOLLOWING DAY.

3. TODAY'S DUTCH-LANGUAGE DAILY DE STANDARD REPORTS
THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIST OF 19 MINISTERS
(PRIME MINISTER, PLUS 9 FRANCOPHONES AND 9 FLEMINGS),
AND 13 SECRETARIES OF STATE (5 FRANCOPHONES AND 8 FLEMINGS).
BY PARTY, DE STANDARD HAS: CVP - PRIME MINISTER,
5 MINISTERS, 3 SECRETARIES OF STATE; BSP (FLEMISH
SOCIALISTS) - 3 MINISTERS, 3 SECRETARIES OF STATE;
VU - 1 MINISTER, 2 SECRETARIES OF STATE; PSB (FRANCOPHONE
SOCIALISTS) - 5 MINISTERS, 2 SECRETARIES OF STATE; AND FDF -
1 MINISTER, 1 SECRETARY OF STATE.

4. WITHOUT SPECIFYING WHO GETS WHAT MINISTRY, DE STANDARD
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SAYS THE NEW TINDEMANS CABINET WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

CVP - TINDEMANS, CHABERT, DE BACKER, GEENS, DHOORE,
LAVENS, D'ALCANTARA, COENS AND EYSKENS;

BSP - CLAES, RAMAEKERS, TOBBACK, CALEWAERT, TEMMERMAN,
VAN ACKER;

VU - DE BRUYNE, COPPIETERS, DE FACQ

PSB - GLINNE, SPITAEELS, SIMONET, HUREZ, MATHOT, PETRY,
URBAIN;

PSC - VANDEN BOEYNANTS, CALIFICE, MICHEL, FRANCOIS,
MAGNEE;

FDF - LAGASSE AND PERSOONS.

5. COMMENT: DE STANDARD, WHICH IS CLOSE TO TINDEMANS
AND THE CVP, PROBABLY HAS MOST OF THE NAMES RIGHT. IF SO,
BELGIUM'S NEXT FOREIGN MINISTER LOOKS LIKE BEING A
SOCIALIST - HENRI SIMONET OR PROFESSOR GUY SPITAEELS.
RENNER

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Message Attributes

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